STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

March 20, 2019

Morgan Lamandre 16158 Crepemyrtle Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2018-1210

Dear Ms. Lamandre:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, in its capacity as the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure, at its February 15, 2019 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to the propriety of your use of campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses.

FACTS PROVIDED

You stated that you wish to use campaign funds for child care expenses that would exist solely because of your campaign and would be incurred as a result of your participation in campaign-related activities such as debates, panels, fundraisers, and canvassing.

LAW

La. R.S.18:1505.2I provides that campaign funds may not be used for any personal use unrelated to the candidate's campaign or his holding of public office.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, by a vote of 6-4 with Board members Colomb, Couvillon, Dittmer, Leggio, McAnelly and Meinert in favor, and Board members Bruneau, Lavastida, Roberts and Smith opposed for the reasons stated at the November 16, 2018 and February 15, 2019 meetings, that the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act does not prohibit the use of campaign funds to pay child care expenses that exist solely because of a person's participation as a candidate and which would not exist but for her campaign.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

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For the Board